



PRS for Music Sports Events Consultation Response Summary

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PRS for Music launched a 6-week consultation on 14 February 2024, proposing an amendment to the existing Tariff SE (Sports Events). On 19 March we extended the consultation for a further period for additional conversation with key trade bodies. The aim of the consultation was to invite customers, members and trade bodies to review and comment on the proposed changes.

The consultation was undertaken in accordance with PRS for Music's Code of Conduct, which sets out our commitment to consult relevant parties whenever significant changes or new licences are proposed. We invited trade bodies, customers and members to respond via email and web form.

Summary of Consultation

The consultation resulted in a total of 137 responses, made up of:

- Customers licensed under Tariff SE (Sports Events), Tariff SR (Skating Rinks), Tariff GP (General Purposes) and Tariff AMS (Amateur Sports Clubs)
- PRS members
- Industry trade bodies

We consulted on an extension of the existing Tariff SE to make it available to commercial sports events, which currently are licensed through both Tariff SR and GP. It was also proposed that customers currently using Tariff AMS can access Tariff SE at a "top up" for commercial ticketed events.

Why did we consult on Tariff SE?

Tariff SE was last reviewed in 2007 and in its current form does not fully cover the way music is now used in this market.

Currently, there are limitations within Tariff SE on the duration allowed for the various types of music usages listed within the Tariff. For example, it only allows customers to use 10 minutes of "build music", while customers behaviors are evidencing the use of much more. Therefore, the current Tariff SE is no longer meeting the market demand of sports customers. We proposed to extend these durations, making the Tariff more suitable for the market.

We also identified that sports events equivalent to those which are currently being licensed under Tariff SE are currently being licensed under other tariffs, for example Tariff SR (Skating Rinks) and Tariff GP (General Purposes). We therefore proposed to simplify the licensing of these sporting events by bringing them under one Tariff.

Consultation Results

We wanted to understand whether customers would benefit from the ability to:

- license additional durations of music use, giving flexibility as to how much music they use in certain categories
- provide full and accurate music reporting
- license sports events that are currently licensed under GP and SR within this tariff
- include grass roots sports who might benefit from utilising the tariff.

In addition, we asked questions around the benefits of recurring music so we could understand how it is used by customers.

Our consultation received responses from current customers and the key sports trade bodies. Following their feedback we have decided to amend the initial proposal to directly address concerns about overcomplication of the licensing process. The changes made to address these issues are as follows:

- Our original proposal was to allow AMS customers the ability to purchase Tariff SE as a top up to their AMS licence. This resulted in some confusion and concern in the market and as a result of the feedback AMS customers will continue to fall under the AMS Tariff for the entirety of their music usage and therefore we will not be amending the scope of Tariff SE in this instance for these customers.
- Our consultation asked for feedback on the capabilities of the market being able to provide us with additional reporting, in reference to music used on a recurring basis. Customers fed back that it would be prohibitive for us to ask for any additional reporting and whilst this was not our intention, we would like to take this opportunity to confirm that no changes will be made to the reporting requirements of this Tariff, and in particular, we will not request additional reporting for recurring music usages.
- Responses to the consultation, demonstrated that additional durations would be beneficial for some customers and as a result of this, we have included additional duration bandings within the updated Tariff as an option for customers where required.
- We asked about the requirement to individually clear recurrent music usage and the ability of the customer to do this. As a result of the responses we received, we understand that it is important to attendees to hear recurrent music within specific sporting events, but that it would be difficult for customers to comply with additional copyright approval requirements. Therefore, we will not be pursuing this proposal at this time.
- We initially proposed that "Fan Zones" be included within this Tariff. However, having fully reviewed the feedback on this proposal we have concluded "Fan Zones" will not be licensed under Tariff SE.
- In accordance with our proposal, sports Customers currently licensed under Tariffs GP and SR will now be licensed under SE.
- For the avoidance of doubt, hospitality areas will not fall under this licence as per our current Tariff.

Key Points of Change

Ground Music

Ground Music will now be structured on an hour basis, allowing for more flexibility for our customers.

Build Music

The duration limitation for build music (which was previously 10 minutes), will be expanded so that customer can obtain a licence to cover for 10, 15 or 20 minutes of build music. These additional durations have been included as different "bands" which can be purchased by a customer.

In-Game Background Music

There will be a new charge for in-game background music as we have found that there are a number of sporting events that now utilise background music during sporting action. This ensures that the Tariff is fit for purpose for the entire market.

Integral Music

As with build music, there will be additional duration bandings for integral music to account for the increased availability of sporting events with a much longer duration than originally anticipated, allowing for increased flexibility for our customers.

Featured Entertainment, Boxes and Minimum Fee

For the avoidance of doubt, these rates will remain as per our current Tariff.

Inflation Adjustment

Customers also raised issues about the inflationary rate of the previous tariff being currently measured by RPI, rather than CPI which is becoming a more standard inflationary adjustment mechanism. As a result, effective from 1 September 2025, we will amend the inflationary adjustment mechanism, so it linked to CPI in the future.

The Rates

You can view the new Tariff SE on the PPL PRS Ltd website

<https://pplprs.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Tariff-SE-01.08.24.pdf>

Next Steps

The revised Tariff SE will be launched on 1st September of this year

We'd like to thank all those that took part in this consultation and to those parties who provided us with additional insights and data.



PRS for Music
1st Floor, Goldings House,
2 Hays Lane,
London SE1 2HB

www.prsformusic.com

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